Government of West Bengal to consider maintaining a spread of 10% per cent rate of import duty on Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Paraxylene during the current financial year.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

New plastic currency notes

786. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is going to introduce new currency in the shape of plastic money in the denomination of Rs.10/- each based on plastic banknote technology very soon; and

(b) if so, by when the new plastic currency is expected to come into circulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) the Reserve Bank of India has informed that they are at present evaluating various options for increasing the life of banknotes, including printing of banknotes on polymer substrate in Rs.10/- denomination. No time frame has as yet been set for this purpose.

Requirement of PAN number in share transactions

†787. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent irregularities in the stock exchange, PAN number has been made compulsory by Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in share transactions;

(b) the number of D-Mat accounts of two major security depositories National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL), and Central Depository Services Ltd. (CDSL) which have been frozen so far in absence of PAN number; and

(c) whether these frozen accounts would again be allowed to be operationalized on presenting PAN number by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) In order to address the concerns arising out of the opening up of multiple demat accounts, SEBI had made Permanent Account Number (PAN) mandatory for opening and operating demat accounts. Subsequently, it has made PAN mandatory for all participants transacting in the securities markets as an investor friendly measure and in the interest of enforcement action. However, an investor participating only in micropension schemes has been exempted from this requirement.

(b) A total of 2,221,660 demat accounts remain frozen as on November 15, 2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Amount of money sanctioned by NABARD for Andhra Pradesh

788. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had sanctioned crores of rupees for Andhra Pradesh to take up various projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount released and utilized so far for each project during the last three years; and

(c) the present status of each project?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.